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Words and phrases that can confuse

(a bit of grammatical help)

In - Into





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These two words are similar, they are sometimes interchangeable, however, they are not always the same.

Let's have a look at how they are formed:

In - This indicates that there is a perimeter, an enclosure, a space and that the thing is internal to this, it does not indicate, necessarily, movement. It can also be part of **In to**.

Into - As above but with the indication of movement/change and that the thing will arrive there.

- ...and retrieved a piece of *elodea* and put it in the test tube.
- ...and put it into the test tube again.

Here both are possible as there is no real idea of “movement.

- ...inject it into the vein

Here there is the idea of movement and using only “in” could mean that the injection is “inside” the vein.

When we divide it is always “into” as there is the sense of movement, division.

- ...subjects in the experiment were divided into 4 groups



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Here we have a phrasal verb “to break in” and the preposition “to”.

- **The police broke in to search the house.**
- **Fill the well in to the top**

Final example of the problems if you make a mistake:

- i) **The cells changed in the liver**
- ii) **The cells changed into the liver**

Example i): while in the liver, the cells changed

Example ii): the cells were not in the liver but changed themselves to become the liver